



## STATE ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) MEETING

**November 15, 2021**

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Held Via Videoconference

### MINUTES

#### Participating Members:

Jeffrey Breslin  
Sgt. Kathy Estrada  
Michelle Farr  
Eric Ford  
Derrell Frazier  
Kya Hector  
Lynette Holmes  
Heidi Rochon  
Joe Rossow  
Dr. Kenneth Waters  
Therese Wolf

#### Staff:

Jessica Wheeler  
Christina Drushel-Williams  
Kelly Gorman  
Bill Harper  
William Jernigan  
Chris Miele

#### Guests:

Jennifer Gauthier  
Lisa Jones  
Denielle Randall  
Betsy Fox Tolentino

## I. Welcome & Roll Call

Chris Miele called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m and called roll.

## II. Chair's Remarks

Eric Ford encouraged the group to focus back on the importance of its work via an overview of the State Advisory Group and its role and responsibilities under the [Juvenile Justice Reform Act](#) (JJRA). Mr. Ford also commended William Jernigan, this year's recipient of the Andrew Smith Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator Award by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ).

- III. **JJAC / JSMR Grantee Presentation: *Center For Hope, Baltimore Links: Positive Youth Development Program*.** Recommended by the SAG for full funding, the Baltimore Links Positive Youth Development Program received a \$150,000 grant award from the Office in FY22. The program develops and implements trauma-informed strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to at-risk youth, including survivors of homicide and near fatalities. Denielle Randall, Program Manager, provided a program overview and update. Highlights include the program's efforts to improve referral processes and address family hesitancy. Now that the program is well underway, these and other adjustments will increase access and support for young people and their families. Additional efforts include working to lift up school based programming by capitalizing on the Center For Hope's strong capacity to maintain connections with schools. Presentation slides are included with these meeting minutes.

## IV. Old / New Business

- A. *FY23 NOFA Workgroup* - Jessica Wheeler referred to the SAG's Three-Year Plan and the OJJDP requirement to conduct an analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs and activities carried out under the plan. Ms. Wheeler proposed that a workgroup of staff and members convene to discuss planning and possible improvements to the FY23 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). Ms. Wheeler requested that members who are not already part of a workgroup consider joining to support their familiarity with the SAG's work and Title II requirements.
- B. *Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Training / Compliance Update* Office staff have been trained by OJJDP on the new requirements for juveniles charged as adults that takes effect on December 21, 2021. To support members and their familiarity with the updated compliance requirements, a training has been scheduled with OJJDP on **Monday, December 13, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Virtual meeting information will be provided to members in advance of the event.

See this [OJJDP Fact Sheet](#) for more information on key amendments to the JJRA including juveniles charged as adults.

### C. Agency Updates

1. Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) - DJS received a ~\$1M competitive grant award under [OJJDP's FY 2021 Juvenile Justice System Reform Initiative](#) as part of its ongoing efforts to incorporate behavioral interventions into community supervision. Betsy Fox

Tolentino, Deputy Secretary of Community Operations, shared that funds will support the DJS ReWire project, which trains frontline workers in the community to utilize elements of cognitive behavioral therapy to support young people and behavioral change. The program utilizes risk and needs assessments to ensure equitable outcomes and will provide all community staff with an understanding of critical aspects of adolescent development. Program goals are to equip young people with tools and options they need to manage trauma, improve their own emotional regulation, alter behaviors, and ultimately, avoid recidivating.

2. Department of Human Services (DHS) - Michelle Farr announced that on November 6, 2021 DHS / SSA successfully launched the new “mylife” website. The mylife website, <https://mylife.mymdthink.maryland.gov/>, is an interactive hub of information and resources designed to assist Maryland’s youth in foster care, young adults, resource parents, foster care advocates, and other child welfare professionals, providing them with the tools needed to guide youth in care towards a healthy transition into adulthood. The website's design organizes resources for youth in care into five main categories: Resources, Initiatives, Events Calendar, State Youth Advisory Board, and Contact Us. Further resources are then divided into seven subcategories: Social Awareness & Self Care, Housing & Homelessness Services, Helpful Tips & Support Services, Credit & Money Management, Education & Employment, Important Life Documents, and Alumni Resources. mylife is mobile-friendly, intuitive, and most importantly built with youth and young adults in mind. The website was also designed to ensure that it provides space for professionals and community providers to easily locate resources for youth, as well as access information about DHS and other valuable resources. Members are invited to explore the website at <https://mylife.mymdthink.maryland.gov/>.

#### *D. Roundtable*

1. Mr. Ford polled members regarding any support, training and technical assistance, or other professional development needs they may have that the SAG might support. Mr. Ford reiterated the purpose of the SAG and its role to help lift up the work of its members and agencies. Ms. Wheeler reiterated Mr. Ford’s call for member needs and requested that member’s share their feedback regarding the SAG and its operations. While the pending NOFA workgroup will include program and grant related discussions, members are encouraged to reach out to Eric, Jessica, and Chris to provide additional suggestions or submit requests for support.
2. Racial and Ethnic Disparities Update - Mr. Jernigan provided members with an overview of his work including multiple presentations, training, and technical assistance that has been made available to partners statewide. Mr. Jernigan informed members that he is collaborating with leadership at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) to expand awareness of R/ED to their students and faculty. Also, he is working with UMES to plan upcoming efforts to increase on-campus and community-based opportunities to expand capacity building to address R/ED on the eastern shore. He also shared with the SAG that

students from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore have been identified to further support the development of the R/ED Diversion Toolkit.

3. Juvenile Diversion Expansion - Jennifer Gauthier, Founder and Executive Director of Lead4Life, provided an overview of the youth justice diversion model and described implementation costs and steps that partners and jurisdictions can take to stand up additional diversion programming. Presentation slides are included with these meeting minutes.
4. Lynette Holmes provided a brief status update regarding the Juvenile Services Education Board and Program (JSEP). The JSEP Board and a standing subcommittee are in place. Superintendent interviews will occur on December 1, 2021, during a closed executive session of the Board. DJS and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) will provide a report to the Governor and Legislature by December 1, 2021, that details the status of transitioning educational operations from MSDE to JSEP by July 1, 2022.
5. Christina Drushel Williams shared that the Office's Executive Director Glenn Fueston was appointed as Chair of the newly formed Commission on Trauma-Informed Care. The Office will also be providing staff support. The Commission's charge is to create a statewide framework for creating trauma-informed State agencies and systems. The first meeting was held on Thursday, November 18, 2021. The Commission will meet virtually each month through June 2022. Meetings are open to the public to observe and non-commission members can serve on committees or workgroups. Commission information, meeting dates, and materials are available on the Office's website, <http://goccp.maryland.gov/councils-commissions-workgroups/commission-on-trauma-informed-care/>
6. Handle With Care Maryland - Kelly Gorman shared that Handle with Care Maryland is being implemented in 19 out of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions. This fall Allegany, Montgomery, and Worcester counties launched their Handle with Care pilot programs. To date, Handle with Care Maryland has reached over 4,000 students.
7. The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. upon a motion from Lynette Holmes and a second from Eric Ford. The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2022, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.